

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 18, 2006. Claims 1-11, 16-26, 31, and 36 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 16, 17, 19-21, 23-26, 31, and 36 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, and 36 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-11, 16-26, 31, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,567,178 (*Tashima*) in view of U.S. Patent 5,771,101 (*Bramall*).

The present invention is directed to an image processing apparatus that performs a first operating instruction for scanning, and a different image processing apparatus that performs a second operating instruction for printing. The scanning and printing operations are performed after a user has been authorized at both image processing apparatuses.

Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus that performs an image processing service provided by a first operating instruction about image processing and a second operating instruction about image processing for a different image processing apparatus. The first operating instruction is an instruction for performing a scanning operation, and the second operating instruction is an instruction for performing a printing

operation. The image processing apparatus includes registration means, input means, first authentication means, transmission means, second authentication means, and determination means. The registration means registers registration information for a user who is authorized to use the image processing apparatus, and the input means enters user information and the first operating instruction for the image processing apparatus. The first authentication means employs the registration information registered by the registration means and the user information entered by the input means to determine whether the first operating instruction for scanning is authorized for the user.

Based on results obtained by the first authentication means, the transmission means transmits the second operating instruction and the user information entered to the different image processing apparatus. The second authentication means obtains from the different apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information received from the transmission means to determine whether the second operating instruction for printing is authorized for the user on the different apparatus.

The determination means employs the results obtained by the second authentication means to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the image processing apparatus in conjunction with the different image processing apparatus to perform the first and second operating instructions of the image processing service. When (a) the first authentication means determines that the first operating instruction for scanning

is authorized for the user, and (b) the determination means determines that the user is permitted to use the second operating instruction for printing, the first operating instruction for scanning is performed by the image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction for printing is performed by the different image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Notably, in Claim 1, an image processing apparatus performs a first operating instruction for scanning and a different image processing apparatus performs a second operating instruction for printing, when a user has been authorized at both image processing apparatuses.

Tashima, as understood by Applicant, relates to a FAX mail apparatus which receives and temporarily accumulates FAX messages transmitted from a FAX device on a transmitting side and which transmits the FAX message to a destination FAX device in accordance with a predetermined condition. At most, *Tashima* discusses sending and receiving faxes using a FAX mail apparatus that receives a password and a subscriber ID from a remote transmission requester FAX and determines whether to execute a FAX transmission based on the received password and subscriber ID.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in *Tashima* that would disclose or suggest an image processing apparatus performing a first operating instruction for scanning and a different image processing apparatus performing a second operating

instruction for printing, when a user has been authorized at both image processing apparatuses, as recited in Claim 1.

Bramall, as understood by Applicant, relates to a security system for data handling to be used in a photocopier, a FAX machine, or a PC or network computer system, for example. At most, *Bramall* discusses a security audit device (SAD) for a local photocopier. Nothing in *Tashima* and *Bramall*, whether taken either separately or in any permissible combination (if any), would teach or suggest an image processing apparatus performing a first operating instruction for scanning and a different image processing apparatus performing a second operating instruction for printing, when a user has been authorized at both image processing apparatuses, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Tashima* and *Bramall*, whether taken either separately or in any permissible combination (if any).

Independent Claims 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, and 36 recite features which are similar in relevant respects to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1 and therefore are also believed to be patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed

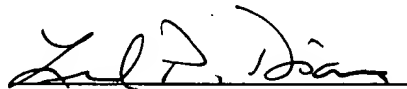
patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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